

THE GUIDE TO LUXURY LIFESTYLES IN THE TRISTATE AREA

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GOING GREEN:
Experts on Eco-Design
Resources & Trends

High
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Inside an Eco-NoHo
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The Heart of the Home: Eco-Kitchens

Homeowners in the U.S. are spending more than \$17 billion annually to renovate the heart of their homes – the kitchen – and demand is steadily increasing for eco-friendly options for cabinetry, countertops, backsplashes and energy-efficient appliances. Since families spend a significant amount of time in their kitchens, eco-healthy options and eco-friendly materials provide a comfort factor that is priceless for a homeowner.

For those thinking of designing a new kitchen, keep the following checklist in mind:

Appliances: Select Energy-Star rated appliances to save energy and lower your electric bill. Energy-Star appliances are also rated on their durability, so they will not end up in the landfill in a few months.

Energy Savings: If your electric company offers an off-peak cycling program, register to save hundreds of dollars a year when they power-off non-essential electronics during the day when you are not at home.

Cabinetry: Check for cabinets that have no added urea-formaldehyde in the assembly process to ensure no off-gassing in your home. Also, durability increases if paint is kiln dried during the manufacturing process. An eco-healthy option

is a frameless cabinet that allows ease of cleaning and provides up to ten percent more storage space.

Backsplash: Options include glass tile and stainless steel panels, and ceramic and porcelain tile. Increasing in popularity are eco-resin panels which require little maintenance.

Countertops: Caesarstone, Richlite (recycled paper) and Icestone (recycled glass) are popular, and increasingly popular options are aluminum and concrete. Consider how to protect your choice if you cook often.

Sinks and Faucets: Undermount sinks reduce bacteria build up, and faucets with aerators built in make water droplets feel larger so that less water is consumed.

Flooring: Ceramic or porcelain tiles are popular, and reclaimed hardwood flooring is also becoming more popular, as is installing radiant-heated floors to lower heating bills.

Paint: Select no-to-low VOC paints to ensure limited off-gassing, and note that it is typically less expensive to have cabinets

Did you know...

- an older refrigerator model can use as much excess power as it would take to power an entire home for four months?
- indoor air can be ten times more toxic than outdoor air?
- bamboo is stronger than red oak and maple?
- forty percent of water use in the home is in the kitchen?
- new styles of porcelain tiles are designed to look like stone and marble and are more affordable and eco-friendly?
- Benjamin Moore's Aura paint is low-VOC and has a self-primer so that one hour after painting there is no paint odor?
- an eco-friendly lifestyle is becoming more affordable and options on the market are more beautiful than ever!

pre-painted in the factory than onsite.